

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 1ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 4TH MAY, 2001

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (66)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Skaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
(Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P.

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (31)

(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

- Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
- Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.
- Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.
- Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
- Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.
- Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.
- Mr. Vincent Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.
- Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.
- Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.
- Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
- Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.
- Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.
- Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
- Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
- Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)

- Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.
- Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) **Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

(iv) **The United Force (1)**

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read the Proclamation made by the President on 26th April, 2001, appointing the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana, as the place where a session of the Eighth Parliament shall be held and 2 o'clock in the afternoon of 4th May, 2001, as the time when such session shall begin.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The Clerk called the names of the persons (65) whose names had been extracted from the Lists for the Geographical Constituencies (25) and from the National Top-Up Lists (40) and who had been declared by the Elections Commission to have become elected Members of the National Assembly, following the Elections on 19th March, 2001.

(1) **Declared Elected on 12th April, 2001**

Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance

Shirley Melville (Region No. 9)

Sheila Holder

People's Progressive Party/Civic

Pauline Sukhai (Region No. 1) ✓
 Heeralall Mohan (Region No. 2) ✓
 Jairam Ronald Gajraj (Region No. 3) ✓
 Bibi Safora Shadick (Region No. 3)
 Cyril Calvin Lewis Belgrave (Region No. 4)
 Navindranauth Omanand Chandarpal (Region No. 4)
 Bernard Celestino DeSantos (Region No. 4)
 Satyadeow Sawh (Region No. 5)
 Khemraj Ramjattan (Region No. 6)
 Ramesh C. Rajkumar (Region No. 6)
 Husman Alli (Region No. 7)
 Shaik K.Z. Baksh
 R. Dale Bisnauth
 Komal Chand
 Indranie Chandarpal
 Clinton C. Collymore
 Shirley Veronica Edwards
 Samuel A.A. Hinds
 Henry B. Jeffrey
 Saisnarine Kowlessar
 Odinga N. Lumumba
 Sheik Feroze Mohamed
 Harripersaud Nokta
 Reepu Daman Persaud
 Kumkaran Ramdas
 Bheri S. Ramsaran

Donald R. Ramotar

Leslie S. Ramsammy

Carolyn Rodrigues

Clement J. Rohee

Philomena Sahoye-Shury

Gail Teixeira

Jennifer R. Westford *

Carl Anthony Xavier

Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party

Ravindra Dev

The United Force

Manzoor Nadir

(2) **Declared Elected on 17th April, 2001**

People's National Congress/Reform

Ricky Khan (Region No. 1)

Ivor Allen (Region No. 2)

James K. McAllister (Region No. 3)

Vincent Alexander (Region No. 4)

Genevieve Allen (Region No. 4)

Myrna Peterkin (Region No. 4)

Lurlene Nestor (Region No. 4)

Amna Ally (Region No. 5)

Nasir Ally (Region No. 6)

Judith David (Region No. 7)

Rajcoomarie Bancroft (Region No. 8)

Sandra Adams (Region No. 10)

Abdul Kadir (Region No. 10)

Deborah Backer

Deryck Bernard

Lance E. Carberry

Robert Corbin

Andy Goveia

Hugh Desmond Hoyte

Dagleish Joseph

Jerome Khan

Volda Lawrence

Stanley Ming

Winston Murray

George Norton

Clarissa Riehl

Raphael Trotman

All Members were present and answered as their names were called.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk invited Members to elect the Speaker of the National Assembly in accordance with Article 56(1) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 2 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud proposed and the Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds seconded Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C.

As there was no other nomination, the Clerk declared Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C., duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran who was present was escorted by his proposer and seconder to the Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 3 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Speaker invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Speaker.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry proposed and Mrs. Deborah J. Backer seconded Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl.

As there was no other nomination, the Speaker declared Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl duly elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

OATHS

The oath of office was made and subscribed by:

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran

Mrs. Clarissa Sabita Riehl

Mr. Samuel Archibald Anthony Hinds

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud

Mr. Clement James Rohee

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta

Miss Gail Teixeira

Dr. Henry Benfield Jeffrey
Mr. Saisnarine Kowlessar
Mr. Shaik Kamrul Zaman Baksh
Mr. Navindranauth Omanand Chandarpal
Mr. Jairam Ronald Gajraj
Dr. Ramnauth Dale Arlington Bisnauth
Mr. Clinton Carlton Collymore
Mr. Satyadeow Sawh
Dr. Jennifer Reginalda Ann Westford
Mr. Carl Anthony Xavier
Miss Bibi Safora Shadick
Miss Carolyn Rodrigues
Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy
Mr. Sheik Feroze Mohamed
Mr. Cyril Calvin Lewis Belgrave
Mr. Donald Rabindranauth Ramotar
Mr. Husman Alli
Mr. Komal Chand
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal
Mr. Bernard Celestino DeSantos
Mrs. Shirley Veronica Edwards
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba
Mr. Heeralall Mohan
Mr. Ramesh Chandra Rajkumar
Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas
Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan
Dr. Bheri Sygmond Ramsaran

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai

Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte

Mr. Robert Herman Orlando Corbin

Mr. Winston Shripal Murray

Mr. Everette Lancelot Carberry

Mr. Ivor Allen

Mrs. Deborah Jan Backer

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard

Mr. Cyril Stanley Ming

Mr. Raphael Gregory Conwright Trotman

Mr. Vincent Luther Alexander

Mr. Andy Goveia

Mrs. Volda Ann Lawrence

Dr. Dagleish Joseph

Miss Amna Ally

Miss Sandra Michelle Adams

Mr. Jerome Khan

Dr. George Aubrey Norton

Miss Myrna Elizabeth Neomi Peterkin

Mr. James Kennedy McAllister

Miss Lurlene Anita Nestor

Mr. Abdul Kadir

Mr. Ricky Khan

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft

Mr. Nasir Ally

Miss Judith David

Miss Genevieve Purvesta Roxanne Allen

Mrs. Sheila Valerie Agnes Holder

Mrs. Shirley Juliana Melville

Mr. Ravindra Dev

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

In his remarks, the Speaker thanked Members for electing him to the Office of Speaker. He also extended congratulations to Mrs. Clarissa Riehl on her re-election to the Office of Deputy Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, Mr. Manzoor Nadir and Mr. Ravindra Dev joined in congratulating Mr. Hari Narayan Ramkarran and Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl on their election and re-election to the Offices of Speaker of the National Assembly and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, respectively.

Mrs. Riehl thanked Members for re-electing her to the Office of Deputy Speaker and also extended congratulations to Mr. Ramkarran on his election to the Office of Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**(i) Appointment of Ministers**

The Speaker informed Members, for the record, of the names of the persons who had been, with effect from 12th April, 2001, appointed by the President to be Ministers and Members of the Cabinet:-

Mr. Samuel Archibald Anthony Hinds - Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications ✓

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud - Minister of Parliamentary Affairs ✓

Miss Gail Teixeira - Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport ✓

Mr. Clement Rohee - Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation ✓

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta - Minister of Local Government and Regional Development ✓

Mr. Navindranauth Chandarpal - Minister of Agriculture ✓

Dr. Henry Benfield Jeffrey - Minister of Education ✓

Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth - Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security ✓

Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh - Minister of Housing and Water ✓

Mr. Ronald Gajraj - Minister of Home Affairs ✓

Mr. Carl Anthony Xavier - Minister of Transport and Hydraulics ✓

Mr. Saisnarine Kowlessar - Minister of Finance ✓

Mr. Satyadeow Sawh - Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock ✓

Dr. Leslie Ramsammy - Minister of Health ✓

Mr. Clinton Collymore - Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development ✓

Dr. Jennifer Ann Westford - Minister of the Public Service

Mrs. Carolyn Rodrigues - Minister of Amerindian Affairs ✓

Mrs. Bibi S. Shadick - Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

(ii) Leader of the Opposition

The Speaker stated that he was advised that Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte continued as Leader of the Opposition.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.25 p.m., the Sitting was suspended to enable the Speaker to receive His Excellency the President, Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT

The President entered the Chamber and took his place on the Dais.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker welcomed the President and invited him to address the Assembly.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

His Excellency the President, Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, addressed the Assembly.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, thanked His Excellency for his address.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.36 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Ramkarran', written in a cursive style.

HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.**

4th May, 2001.